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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EST)

The Political Situation in South Vietnam: [Representatives from the ruling Directorate are scheduled to meet with the Constituent Assembly today to try to resolve the remaining areas of controversy in the draft constitution.]

[Several members of the Directorate, both military and civilian, are reportedly quite dissatisfied with certain articles, particularly those relating to military participation in politics, the power of the legislature to remove the cabinet by a three-fourths vote, the weak military advisory council, and the assembly's authority to act as a legislature until one is elected.]

[The Directorate's decision whether or not to invoke its power to revise the assembly's final version of the constitution will probably depend on the outcome of these discussions. It is not yet clear whether the Directorate is willing to compromise its views. For its part, the assembly may hope in these talks to barter the broad legislative power it has claimed for Directorate concessions on some of the other controversial articles.]

The Military Situation in South Vietnam: In what may be an intensified effort to disrupt the government's pacification program, the Communists recently penetrated district level installations in two South Vietnamese provinces and inflicted significant casualties on their defenders.

In Quang Nam Province near the provincial capital of Hoi An, an estimated two Viet Cong companies attacked a national police station that, together with similar posts throughout the country, has been engaged in intelligence support of the Revolutionary

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Development program. After overwhelming the garrison's defenders, the attackers released a number of persons being held by the police for questioning.

The second foray was directed against the district headquarters at Phu Thu, southeast of Hue in Thua Thien Province. An estimated 80 guerrillas breached the headquarters' defenses and killed most of the garrison's 50 defenders. Phu Thu is the second district in the province to come under severe enemy pressure. Quang Dien District has been subject to renewed Communist military activity for several months.

Recent information gleaned from captured documents and prisoner interrogations has confirmed long-standing reports of friction in Communist ranks between native southerners and infiltrated northerners. The evidence indicates that the problem may be comparatively widespread in units where Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army elements are integrated.

The frictions appear to be based on traditional regional differences, on differences in professional military training, and on the fact that northerners, because of age and superior military experience, are often placed in positions of command over southerners.

None of the information gathered so far suggests that the friction has as yet impaired the combat effectiveness of Communist military units.

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Britain - South Arabia: [London is still trying to reconcile its differences with Adeni nationalist groups before the British leave South Arabia next year.]

[The British hope to arrange a meeting with the leader of one of these groups. Al-Asnag, leader of the Front for the Liberation of Occupied South Yemen, has indicated that he is willing to meet with the British. There is no guarantee that a meeting will actually take place. Even if it does, there is little promise that this nationalist group will come to terms with the British or with the South Arabian Federation, to which Britain intends to turn over the government next year. A reconciliation with the Adeni nationalist groups is fundamental to the British effort to establish a viable postindependence government.]

[Meanwhile, London is considering giving responsibility for internal security in part of Aden to the South Arabian Federation. It is not likely to be able to bring a reduction in terrorism, but the British believe the transfer of authority should begin while they retain ultimate control.]

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*Brazil: [Federal police are expecting student demonstrations and strikes throughout Brazil today and on the 15 March inauguration day of President-elect Costa e Silva.]

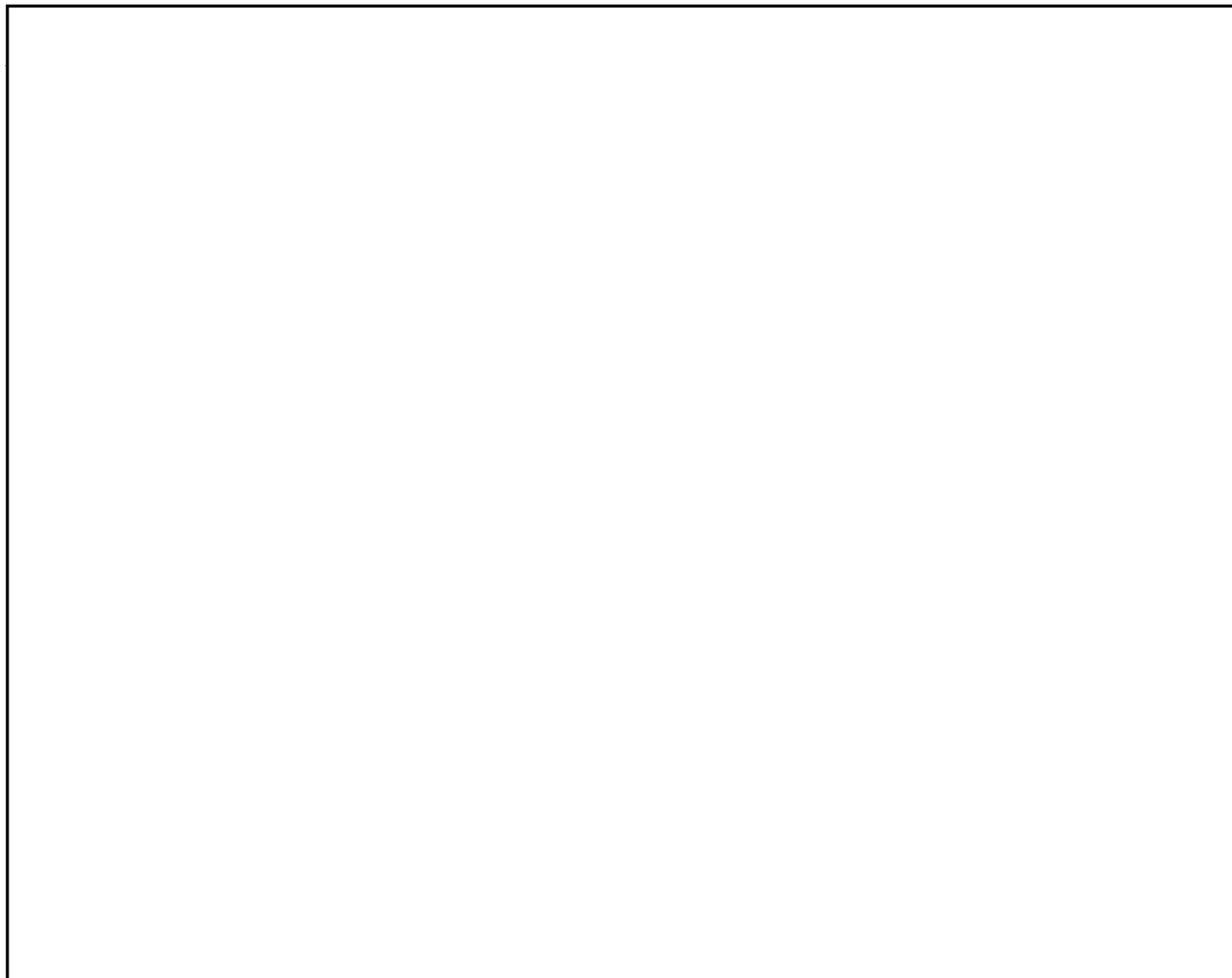
[Students may also attack government cooperation in education with USAID. Student leaders were able to whip up widespread demonstrations against the government last fall; however, many top student agitators were recently rounded up by police, compromising some of their organization and reducing their capability for coordinated action.]

[Military units have already been alerted to possible disturbances on or before 15 March by some of Brazil's many small, dissident extremist groups. Warnings of possible action against US personnel and installations have also been received. The extremist groups have some limited capability for violence or terrorism.]

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NOTES



East Germany - Poland: The East German party boss, Walter Ulbricht, arrived in Warsaw today to sign a mutual assistance treaty with Poland. This is part of an effort to prevent East German isolation and to counter Bonn's recent diplomatic initiatives in Eastern Europe. The East Germans plan to sign a similar treaty with the Czechs soon.



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Nigeria: Eastern Governor Ojukwu, at a press conference in Enugu on 13 March, said Eastern Nigeria would secede only if attacked or blockaded. On 10 March he [] told the US consul that he would not unilaterally carry out the decisions on greater regional autonomy reached last January if Gowon would publicly commit himself to putting them into effect within a reasonable time. On 12 March Ojukwu flew to Benin City, presumably to win Mid-Western support for the East's position from Governor Ejoor.

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